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Subject Environmental Defense comments on
Tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate (CAS# 140-08-9)

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(Submitted via Internet 7/28/05 to oppt.ncic@epa.gov, hpv.chemrtk@epa.gov, /
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Environmental Defense appreciates this opportunity to submit comments on the robust summary/test plan for **Tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate (CAS# 140-08-9)**.

Rhodia Inc. (formerly Albright and Wilson Americas Inc.) in response to EPA's High Production Volume (HPV) Chemical Challenge, has submitted robust summaries and a test plan describing available data and proposed additional testing for tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphite (T2CEP). This generally well written submission briefly describes how T2CEP is produced and used almost exclusively as a closed-system intermediate. According to the sponsor, it is not stored in appreciable quantities, but is used as it is produced, minimizing occupational and environmental exposures. The sponsor thus requests that T2CEP be considered a closed-system intermediate and reviewed as such under HPV Chemical Challenge guidelines. Consideration as a closed-system intermediate, however, would not account for the fact that the test plan states that a "very small amount", about 0.1% of total T2CEP production, is packaged into 55 gallon drums and shipped by truck to one or two industrial customers. Since no information is provided regarding the company's total production, it is impossible to determine what amount of chemical is represented by 0.1% of total production, nor whether other producers use or sell it for use in other ways. Thus, we defer to EPA to determine whether T2CEP should be considered a closed-system intermediate.

Our review of data described in the robust summaries indicates that most of the studies were not conducted according to GLP or do not otherwise meet OECD guidelines, but they do approximate those guidelines and appear to be acceptable if T2CEP is considered a closed-system intermediate and if data extrapolated from structurally related chemicals are considered acceptable. We support the proposed extrapolation of data from structurally similar chemicals; however, we do not think extrapolation of data from structurally related chemicals should be restricted to that found supportive of a submission. If any data are extrapolated from structurally related chemicals then all available data should be extrapolated.

Thus, additional research on both T2CEP and the structurally similar chemical, tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate, has been conducted and published under the National Toxicology Program (NTP). Though this work is described in a number of publications and on the NTP website, it has not been cited in this submission. Briefly, tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate has been evaluated in repeated dose and chronic studies and reported to be both neurotoxic and a carcinogen (NTP Technical Report 391). T2CEP itself has been the subject of a metabolism study (Dix et al. 1994) and was reported by the NTP to be weakly positive in Salmonella (NTP website). All of this information should be included in this submission.

In summary, if the EPA considers T2CEP a closed-system intermediate and if the information described above for T2CEP and tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate is included, the result would be an acceptable submission. If T2CEP is not considered a closed-system intermediate, then additional work to include reproductive toxicity studies will be necessary.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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